

Argument in Favor of Proposition 77

THE TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IS NOW!

PROPOSITION 77: “THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT” WILL FINALLY MAKE POLITICIANS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE.

- Guarantee fair election districts for Californians.
- Give voters the final say in the process.
- Reduce special interest influence and money in politics.

YES on Prop. 77: Let the Voters Decide.

The Problem: California’s flawed election system allows partisan politicians to draw the boundary lines of their own districts—splitting up towns and even neighborhoods for personal gain. The result: there is no accountability because the incumbents rig the districts to ensure they have NO serious competition, guaranteed re-election, and are NOT accountable to voters.

It used to be that voters picked their politicians—now politicians pick their voters. And that’s NOT FAIR.

“California lawmakers are so adept at designing their own districts that of the 153 seats—80 Assembly, 20 state Senate, 53 Congressional—theoretically up for grabs last November (2004), not a single one switched parties.”

Wall Street Journal, March 11, 2005

When politicians are not accountable to voters, they become accountable only to their special interest campaign contributors.

That’s why we still have record deficits, unbalanced budgets, out of control spending, and calls for higher taxes, year after year.

Wouldn’t it be better if legislators would work to improve education, cut wasteful government spending, eliminate bureaucracy, and balance the budget once and for all? But that won’t happen until our elected officials start paying attention to us. Under the current system, they only pay attention to their campaign contributors. It’s time for a change.

Prop. 77—The Bipartisan Voter Empowerment Solution

1. Voters will be able to vote on the new redistricting plan. That gives the people of California more power and the special interests less.
2. To ensure district lines that are competitive and fair, a panel of retired judges—selected through a bipartisan process with no political agenda—will draw new district lines according to strict guidelines.
3. Voters then may approve or reject the lines. That puts us, Californians, in charge of our elections.
4. Neighborhoods and communities will matter again. Incumbents will no longer be able to draw their own districts, splitting up towns and neighborhoods in an effort to guarantee their own re-election.

Prop. 77 IS A COMMON SENSE, BIPARTISAN SOLUTION THAT WILL:

- Guarantee fair, competitive elections for California voters.
- Give voters the final say in the process.
- Hold the politicians accountable.
- Reduce the influence of political money.

Now is the time. After many years of opposing reform, overspending, and gridlock, legislative leaders of both parties finally admitted, this year, that redistricting reform is necessary—that allowing politicians to draw their own districts is a conflict of interest that must be changed.

The opportunity is now. PLEASE JOIN US IN VOTING YES ON PROP. 77 TO:

- HOLD THE POLITICIANS ACCOUNTABLE!
- CLEAN UP SACRAMENTO.
- REDUCE PARTISAN POLITICS.
- RETURN ELECTORAL CONTROL TO THE PEOPLE.

EDWARD J. “TED” COSTA, CEO

People’s Advocate

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

State of California

JOHN A. ARGUELLES

Former California Supreme Court Justice

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Proposition 77

The people behind Prop. 77 want you to believe it will make things better.

Don’t be fooled!

Special interests spent millions of dollars to force a special election and put this loophole-ridden redistricting scheme on the ballot.

In fact, two courts and three judges have already ruled that this measure shouldn’t even be on the ballot. They ruled that proponents broke the law in a rush to have a new redistricting and reapportionment 5 years earlier than normal.

This flawed plan won’t make politicians more accountable . . . they pick the judges!

Read the fine print.

- 1) PROP. 77 TAKES AWAY THE RIGHT OF VOTERS to reject redistricting plans *before* they go into effect.
- 2) The so-called *independent* redistricting judges are HAND-PICKED BY POLITICIANS.
- 3) Every time voters reject these redistricting plans, IT WILL COST TAXPAYERS MILLIONS.

- 4) Everything is decided by a small panel of ONLY THREE UNELECTED JUDGES.
- 5) This flawed idea is CEMENTED INTO OUR CONSTITUTION.

Politicians have tried to sneak redistricting schemes past voters four times in the last 25 years. VOTERS SAID NO . . . all four times.

Instead of putting up a straight-forward plan that makes sense, they offer us this unfair and undemocratic redistricting measure.

Vote NO on Prop. 77. It can only make things worse.

www.NoOnProposition77.com

DANIEL H. LOWENSTEIN, Former Chair

Fair Political Practices Commission

DEBORAH BURGER, President

California Nurses Association

HENRY L. “HANK” LACAYO, State President

Congress of California Seniors